

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Ciphering apparatus in which plaintext is divided into blocks, and a ciphering attribute for use in ciphering is set to each block. Each block is ciphered in accordance with the ciphering attribute set for each block, the ciphered blocks are collected, and ciphertext is formed. For deciphering, the ciphering attribute for each block is referred to, each block is deciphered, deciphered results are collected, and the original plaintext is obtained.